In the rural sector, as reported by the Ministry of Rural Development, a National Mission for Rural Housing and Habitat has been set up by the Ministry of Rural Development to enable the induction of science and technology inputs on a continuous basis into the sector and providing convergence to technology, habitat and energy related issues with a goal to providing affordable shelter for all in rural areas within a specified time frame and through community participation. The aim of the National Mission is to ensure the creation of sustainable human settlement in the rural areas. An Action Plan has also been drawn up which include (i) Conversion of unserviceable houses into pucca/ semi pucca under Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) (ii) Credit-cum-subsidy Scheme (iii) Samagra Awas Yojana (iv) Innovative Stream for rural housing and Habitat Development (v) Setting up of Rural Building Centres and National Mission for Rural Housing and Habitat. These Schemes have been launched *w.e.f.* 1-4-1999.

National Policy on Slums

3204. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA

: SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN :

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are seized of the problem of slums encroaching on Government land in important cities of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to evolve a National policy on slums; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A large number of people have been migarating from time to time from villages to big cities in search of employment opportunities. Such informal settlements have also encroached upon the Government land. As per the estimates (1991) of town and Country Planning Organisation (TCPO), the slum population in four metropolitan cities viz. Calcutta, Mumbai, Chennai and Delhi was 36.26 lakhs, 43.20 lakhs, 15.25 lakhs and 22.48 lakhs respectively.

(c) and (d) Ministry have prepared a draft National Slum Policy. The draft is still under consideration.